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The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : அங்கத்தினர் கேள்வி மூலமாக என்ன சொல்ல விரும்புகிறார்கள் என்பதை என்னால் புரிந்துகொள்ள முடியவில்லை. இதிலே தவறு ஒன்றும் கிடையாது. மற்ற நாடுகளில் இம்மாதிரி ஒரு சொல் விடை அளிக்கக்கூடிய விதத்தில் பரீக்ஷைகள் நடைபெறுகின்றன. அதை நம்முடைய நாட்டில் பரிக்ஷை செய்து பார்த்தோம். அதன் மூலம் நன்மை ஏற்படவில்லை. அதனால் சிறிது அளவு மாணவர்களிடையே தரக்குறைவு ஏற்பட்டது என்ற காரணத்திற்காக இப்பொழுது அந்த முறையை மாற்றியிருக்கிறோம்.

Sri K. VINAYAKAM : Sir, drawing a lesson out of this experience, will the Government at least desist from the temptation to interfere with education introducing too many innovations but allow education to continue as it is for at least 25 years more?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, it all depends on the opinion that we have on the present system of education. If we are all satisfied that there is nothing wrong in it, I am prepared to leave it without any interference as the hon. Member would put it. But the real question is, are we satisfied with the existing state of affairs? That is the question we have to answer first.

Sri R. SRINIVASA IYER : பரீக்ஷை இல்லாமல் கிளாஸ் அடெண்டு செய்துவிட்டால் போதும், அதையெல்லாம் பார்த்து பாஸ் போடலாம் என்ற மாதிரி ஒரு இயக்கம் இருக்கிறதா? அதுபற்றி சர்க்கார் அபிப்பிராயம் என்ன? பரீக்ஷை இல்லாமலே செய்வதற்கு நோக்கம் உண்டா?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM : பல இயக்கங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. பரீக்ஷை இல்லாமலே இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பது ஒன்று. படிக்காமலே கூட பட்டம் பெறலாம் என்பது ஒன்று. (சிரிப்பு). இம்மாதிரி பல இயக்கங்கள் இருக்கின்றன.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : கேள்விகள் முடிவுற்றன.

Note—**An asterisk at the commencement of a speach indicates revision by the Member**

II. CALLING ATTENTION TO THE SHOOTING UP OF PRICES OF PADDY AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

Sri N. K. PALANISAMI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Home to a matter of urgent public importance, namely, shooting up of prices of paddy and other commodities consequent on the discontinuance of the scheme of procurement by the Government and also the closure of Fair Price Shops.

* The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, I would like to make the following statement with reference to the matter raised by the hon. Member. Sir, under the scheme of procurement and distribution started last year, the intention was to run fair price shops only during the lean months of the year. Accordingly, Fair Price Shops

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were opened from the middle of July, 1959 in all the districts of the State. The offtake of rice which was of the order of 6,000 tons per week in the middle of September, gradually fell down to less than 2,500 tons beginning from December 1959. It was reported that as a result of the fall in the open market prices of rice, the offtake of rice through Fair Price Shops was negligible in many places. In view of this, the Collectors were requested to close down the Fair Price shops wherever the offtake was poor, particularly in the rural areas. With the end of the lean season, all Fair Price Shops in the muffassal districts were closed by the end of January 1960 and those in Madras City by the end of February 1960.

Procurement operations were discontinued with effect from the 1st November 1959 as it was considered it would not be worthwhile to procure kuruvai and other shorter crops. So long as there was procurement the Government were meeting the requirements of bulk consumers like Government hospitals, industrial workers' Co-operative, hostels, plantation labour establishments, etc. In the absence of Government procurement it was felt that the Price Control Order would not be effective in holding down the prices in the open market. On the other hand, it was reprsented that the order was hampering the normal operations of the Co-operative Marketing Societies and other quasi-Government institutions. In view of this, the Government decided to rescind the Price Control Order also.

As regards procurement from the main harvest in January 1960 the report received from the Collectors of all districts showed that the crop prospects were brighter than in the previous year in all districts of the State except in Chingleput and North Arcot districts and that in expectation of this, prices of paddy and rice were showing a downward trend since the begining of December 1959. It was considered that the present conditions were quite suitable to allow the normal economic forces to play in the market without any serious risk of an unusual rise in prices. The Government consulted the State Food Advisory Committee also. The general view of the Committee was that it would not be advisable to undertake procurement under the present conditions and that it could be possible to bring down the prices without undertaking procurement. Two Members of the Committee however, expressed the view that procurement should be undertaken. Considering all the factors, the Government decided not to undertake procurement of samba crop. The Government are aware that there may be an upward trend in prices during the lean months after July next and there may be need for opening Fair Price Shops on a fairly large scale. The Government expect that adequate supplies of rice will be forthcoming from the Central reserves to meet the reasonable requirement of the Fair Price Shop that might be opened.

The following are the wholesale prices of second sort paddy and rice per maund prevailing in some of the market centres of this State since November 1959 when procurement was discontinued. 9-30 a.m.

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Name of the Centre.	Paddy.				Rice			
	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	F b.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Cuddalore ..	15·95	15·95	12·14	12·51	22·01	21·77	19 00	18·39
Vellore ..	14·69	15.00	13·70	14·00	21·71	20·73	20·50	20·19
Kumbakonam.	14·17	14·00	12·01	11·96	22·79	22·50	20 50	19·38
Tiruchirapalli.	13·75	12.91	11·55	12·74	21·61	20·18	18·87	18·94
Salem ..	13·34	13·01	12·64	12·95	20·96	20·46	18·86	18·94
Madurai ..	13·20	13·55	12·62	12·08	22·08	22·58	20 07	19·07
Nagercoil ..	15·42	14·81	18·21	12·39	21·69	21·19	19·17	19 25
State average ..	14·36	14·16	12·59	12·58	21·98	21.33	19·57	19·17

Sir, the figures will show that on the whole the prices of both paddy and rice have fallen down by nearly Rs. 2 per maund since November 1959 and that there is no increase in price as a result of the Government giving up procurement.

III.—ANNOUNCEMENT.

AGRICULTURAL INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to announce that the Governor has given his recommendation for the introduction of the Madras Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960, in the Legislative Assembly.

IV.—GOVERNMENT BILL.

THE MADRAS AGRICULTURAL INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1960.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is—

'That leave be granted for the introduction of the Madras Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 1960.

The motion was put and carried and leave was granted.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Bill is introduced.

V.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1960-61—*cont.*

DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall continue the discussion on the Budget for the year 1960–61. The hon. Member, Sri S. Pakkirisami Pillai, will speak now.

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